



**CITY OF RIVERSIDE
COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
for
August 27, 2001
Art Pick Council Chamber
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA**

Present: Commissioners Brewer, Egson, Garcia, Gardner, Goldware, Howe, and Huerta

Absent: Commissioner Hendrick

Chairperson Howe called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Brewer and seconded by Commissioner Gardner to approve the minutes for the July 2001 monthly meeting and the minutes of the August 13, 2001 case review meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Executive Director's report and comments...

EXEC. DIR. WILLIAMS – Thank you. I've got a few of them listed here. Tomorrow, as we all know, we're sort of the bookends of tomorrow's session. Item 1 of the agenda will be the presentation of the plaque to Martha Redsecker, so if...that should go on about 9:00. So if you folks can make it, it'd be appreciated. We're also the very last item, No. 87. On tomorrow's agenda is... Council's going to select the replacement for Jim Redsecker. And what time that will happen, I have no idea. Your guess is as good as mine.

Let's see... Outreach... Last month, I believe it was, you asked that I start working on an outreach program that would include the commissioners. I've done a little bit, but not a lot. One of the things I'm gonna try to do is get an intern to work part time in our office. We have plenty of funds available to pay for it that will work strictly on the outreach program to help us because neither Phoebe or I have the time to set up the database and do the calling and mailings and this type of thing and everything that's necessary to get this thing going. So I'll be working on that this week and next week trying to go through the process of selecting... where I can start selecting one and do that. So we should have a part-timer working in our office, hopefully within a couple weeks. But I don't know what the process is or what the window is for that type of thing.

A number of you have asked, as well as some community members have asked that...about the status of the report...of the investigation into the officer-involved shooting that occurred over on Phoenix. In speaking with Lt. Collopy and Capt. Dana today, the criminal investigation has gone to the district attorney's office. They will be receiving it in the near future - don't know when. They really don't know when. And so I don't really have a definite window of time, but as soon they get it ?, we'll get it and be able to do that. But again, we don't really have a firm time for that.

I know we sent a message out to you, but just to sort of reiterate, last month we talked about having training on Wednesday, the 29th at the Police Academy, an executive officer defense course. That's been cancelled and I know we notified you of that several weeks ago, we just sort of reiterate that.

Correction to tonight's item, Item No. 8 shows that we're going to have Joe Brann in closed session. That'll happen. It'll just be open session during Item No. 5, I believe it is. I'm sorry, 6, Item 6. Will be open session as opposed to any closed session.

We're going to...we've got our website up and running and we want to get photos of each commissioner. We'll let you know prior to the meeting when we'll take the photos. It'll probably be, if not this next case review meeting, maybe the next month or something like that, so we can put commissioners photos on our website and everything, so the whole world can see what a wonderful looking group we've got. And one of the commissioners...we have tentatively scheduled the case review meeting for September 10th, Monday. One of the commissioners has asked that it be moved to Thursday because he's out of town. Does anyone have a conflict with Thursday, September 13th?

COMMISSIONER GARCIA – I have a community meeting on the 13th.

EXEC. DIR. WILLIAMS – Community meeting? That evening?

COMMISSIONER GARCIA – A Casa Blanca community meeting

EXEC. DIR. WILLIAMS – Okay. We'll try to work something out and all. We may just have to just leave it as the 10th, ya know, but you're gonna lose one either way, so... Let us... let us... Let's leave it as the 10th and then we'll try to... We'll try to work something out with another day, but I really want to keep it at that week if we can, otherwise we have meetings two weeks in a row and it sort of defeats the purpose. And I believe that's all. If there are any questions, I'll be glad to answer them.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Okay, we'll move on to No. 4, Commissioners Comments. I'll start to my left.

COMMISSIONER GARCIA – None at this time.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BREWER – Nothing.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Alright. Now we'll move to Public Comments. This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on any subject matter that is within the Commission's jurisdiction, but is not an item on today's agenda. Each speaker should complete and submit a "Request to Speak" form to the Administrative Clerk. If you wish to comment on a specific agenda item, please complete and submit a "Request to Speak" form to the Administrative Clerk, noting the number of the agenda item on which you wish to speak. Okay, we have Mary Shelton at the...

Mary Shelton

Hi. I just wanted to comment mostly on the website. I've...just was on the website a couple of days ago, and I think it's very good. I like having the choice of the different formats. I've tried the different things and I think that it's very accessible to the public in terms of being, you know, I mean it's mostly for those who have access to the Internet, but it's...for those who do, it's a really good resource and it's easy to find everything, like the case review and the minutes and everything like that and how it's organized. It's very easy and I think that access to information like that needs to be easily obtained. I had a few little bugs to work out, as Ms. Sherron explained to me, with the computer I was using. But the Adobe format I really support, because I was reading some stuff on the Adobe format today and it was really...it's a nice, friendly, easy format to use that looks more like what you read on a piece of paper, you know, during the times when we were still reading stuff on pieces of paper.

I do have one little concern about the way this Commission's going in terms... We're always going to be examining the issue of independent investigations and I've heard on the grapevine that now the Riverside Police Officers' Association's also concerned with the issue of independent investigations, which apparently rose out of a complaint where there was some sort of disagreement between the Department and Commission in terms of something that was written in one of their newsletters on their website. And I think that, for you guys it must be hard to be caught between two separate, I'm sure diverging, interests in terms of what an independent investigation should be. I mean, the community's come forward and raised their concerns about what it should be. I'm sure the Riverside Police Officers' Association, or at least their president, has its...has their own ideas of what it should be. Probably not the same... I guess what you're going to have to do is just maneuver yourself down the road and come up with a meaning that does what it needs to be done, and if...I mean...I hope that we can reach a point where the Commission has the independence to do the investigations, because they need to be done... I mean, that's...either...if you don't have that right, you're a rubber stamp for the Internal Affairs Division. And there's some times when maybe doing an independent investigation might help the police officer as well, so... I hope to see more examination and more focus as the Commission goes on into the future into looking into that area. I mean, it's not going to go away any time soon, and it's always going to be a subject of debate, but it's going to be something that's very important. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Okay. Thank you, Ms. Shelton. Is there anyone else to speak? Okay, we'll move on to Item 6, and I'll ask our Executive Director to introduce our next speaker.

EXEC. DIR. WILLIAMS – Well, actually I'm gonna introduce the introducer. I'll have Chief Leach come up and introduce Mr. Joe Brann. He's the consultant appointed by the Attorney General to oversee the stipulated judgment. Chief Leach...

CHIEF LEACH – Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Riverside Community Police Review Commission. Thank you for asking us to come by this evening. I have a special guest with me today. As you know, during the course of our negotiations with the State Attorney General's office, one of the requirements by Attorney General Lockyer was that a consultant or monitor be put in place to oversee the five-year stipulation of judgment to see how well we comply with the agreed upon items and to monitor the progress of the reforms and enhancements of this police department. And again, one of the negotiated items was that I, as chief of police in consultation with the Attorney General's staff, was to have say-so as to who they would hire for this position, and I was also invited to make some recommendations. Well, very gratifying for us is the person I recommended was the person they ultimately hired. With me tonight is Mr. Joe Brann who, in his past life, was a member of the Santa Ana Police Department for many, many years; was a police captain there under Chief Ray Davis's regime and was actually the primary architect of successful community policing programs in Santa Ana, programs that won national attention for innovation and for partnering with various elements of the community. From that position, Joe went on to become chief of police in Hayward, California, had a distinguished career up in Hayward as its chief, and again, pioneered the innovation of community policing programs in Northern California, which again had national implications, as such that he was selected by President Bill Clinton to become the first director of the Community-Oriented Policing Service, or COPS office, which was part of the Department of Justice. This was part of President Clinton's initiative to put 100,000 police officers on the streets and Joe was selected as the first director in that position. He served seven years and actually guided various grants that most of us in police work are very thankful for. They allowed us to build our departments with grant-funded positions. And now he is in private practice as a consultant to various city governments and local agencies throughout the United States. And again, having been a fan of Joe's for many, many years, I was delighted that my recommendation of him for this position was accepted by the Attorney General. I asked him to come by this evening to meet with each of you, or to meet with this panel, because there is a commonality of purpose really, in your mission as charged by the citizens of our city to oversee our Internal Affairs investigations, and there, obviously, contained in the consent decree, are items which give the Attorney General power to oversee how we conduct our internal investigations and how we utilize our investigative sergeants and we weigh levels of evidence when we make findings. So I think it's a natural meeting that occur between Mr. Brann and this body. So with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to bring Joe up to say a few words to you.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Sure.

CHIEF LEACH – Thank you.

MR. BRANN – I want to thank Chief Leach for that very kind introduction and thank you for having me here this evening. I think Chief Leach stated it very well. There certainly is a commonality of purpose with respect to your role and my role. I trust, I have no doubt whatsoever, that this body will continue to be around for many, many years to come, and I think you can trust that I will be around for the next five years, certainly, in terms of the role I'll be playing on behalf of the State Department of Justice, Attorney General Bill Lockyer, and working in concert with City officials, the Police Department and staff to ensure that we moved forward aggressively and effectively with the implementation of the items that were agreed to in that stipulation.

I do welcome this opportunity, I really do. I'm passionate about my profession, policing, even though I've been out of that in an active, day-to-day capacity in that sense for several years. But I, as Chief Leach indicated, I do work with a number of law enforcement agencies and communities across the country. This is something that I think is especially notable because it's a very unique situation in that it's the first time a state attorney general has ever stepped forward to take on the kinds of issues that historically, traditionally, have been left by the policing community to have the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, step into. And frankly, the way that this community has dealt with it, and the way that the Riverside Police Department under Chief Leach's leadership have dealt with it, is truly, in my view, is going to serve as a model, not only around the state, but around the country. I'm aware of one other state right now that is...where the state attorney general's office is also beginning to address...where another state attorney general is beginning to take on comparable kinds of issues.

I do want to make myself available to you folks and I hope and trust that you will allow me to reciprocate on that front and call upon you as well in the course of fulfilling my obligations and responsibilities. I look upon myself as both a resource to the Attorney General to ensure that things move along as he expects and wants to see happen, he and his staff, but also I look upon myself as a resource to the Riverside Police Department and this community. It's a unique kind of a position. I think we're still in the process of sort of crafting exactly what that role will consist of and how business will be done. But thus far, I'm quite pleased to tell you that it's moving forward very, very well. I've had some excellent experiences thus far with the staff in making sure that we are addressing, appropriately and within the time lines that have been identified, the policy kinds of issues and considerations that have to be addressed immediately and we will certainly continue to do that on all other fronts as well.

I really don't want to take up a great deal of your time with my comments. What I'd like to do is make myself available to respond to any questions that you might have and, if you would permit me to do so, I'd be happy to give your Executive Director, Mr. Williams, some of my business cards. Don can get those to you, and I want you to feel free to contact me at any point in time. It'll have both the phone number and the e-mail address and I am over in the Los Angeles area, so I'm readily accessible, would be pleased to meet with you at any point in time, and I do recognize that you all have your own individual schedules, so maybe the easiest way to do that, to deal with that, may be in individual meetings or small group meetings as your schedules permit. So let me please open this up to any questions I might be able to respond to.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Any commissioners have any questions for the chief?

COMMISSIONER GOLDWARE – I would like to also, as I'm sure you've already had that done by the Chief, welcome you to Riverside. While it's a difficult period that we've come through and are going through that's caused you to come to Riverside, Riverside is a, as I'm sure you'll find more and more as you spend here, is a wonderful city with marvelous people. And there will be this willingness, I think, that you've already seen, to move forward and advance on the different items of the agenda that you've been given and that we've been given. And we're pleased that you would take the time to come before us, and thank you very much for doing so.

MR. BRANN – Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Thank you, Commissioner Goldware, for those kind remarks, as I'm sure they will be seconded by all of us. Anyone else? Thank you, Chief.

EXEC. DIR. WILLIAMS – I do. I just have one little question. I get calls from time to time in the office and typically it's, okay, we have the Commission and we have the Attorney General's guy – that's the way you're thought of more and more; eventually they'll know your name, I'm sure, Joe – where are the jurisdictions between the two groups? And I think you alluded to it that we're still sort of trying to feel around exactly where that, where those actually, those jurisdictions are, those, you know... You have a sense for what role this commission plays in your job as the consultant for the Police Department in this stipulated agreement.

MR. BRANN – Well, the way I would envision it, first of all, is...my understanding is very much based upon what the Council, I understand, has given you in terms of direction, the kind of a resource you are within this community and to the Council in terms of providing oversight and providing an independent review of certain actions and activities within the Police Department. And I think, certainly, our roles will cross to some extent; that we will have areas that we are both mutually focused on and trying to address. My role is quite clearly that of being here on behalf of the Attorney General, State Department of Justice, to ensure that those stipulated items that were agreed to are dealt with and addressed effectively within the time lines that were indicated, and to make sure that this is not just a paper process, by any stretch of the imagination, but in fact that the full intent of the objectives that were outlined are met and, you know, there's a good faith effort on all fronts. The Attorney General's office – I think this is really to their credit – they were looking for somebody who has a real understanding of the nuances of policing, who has experience in working with a variety of police organizations, working within the field, to respond to them to make certain that things are done in a reasonable manner, that it's prudent, that we work effectively with the police department because there are limitations. It's a difficult – as you certainly have learned from your experiences in your role in this capacity – policing is, in fact, a very, very challenging profession, an extraordinarily challenging discipline, and you're not going to satisfy everybody all of the time. But the objective here is to make sure you're being responsive to a community, you're doing it in a professional and ethical manner. That's what the members of the Riverside Police Department have shown me that they clearly want. I think the caliber of the leadership that you have there, the responsiveness that you're seeing on all fronts, and frankly, the creation of this body, is an indication of just what you were indicating a few moments ago, Mr. Goldware. It's a terrific community with some very dedicated, committed people here, and I think all of us see our job, our role, as being to ensure that we continue to build upon that and make the Riverside Police Department the model agency that it truly wants to be. So, that, I guess, as briefly as I could make it, is really how I envision the role.

EXEC. DIR. WILLIAMS – Appreciate it.

MR. BRANN – Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Thank you. Our next guest speaker...

COMMISSIONER GARCIA – I have a question to Mr. Brann. From your experience, how effective has it been for you to see an independent investigation from a community board or commission?

MR. BRANN – I have... This is an issue I've grappled with myself as...with my 30 years in the profession within the industry. I've watched many of my colleagues grapple with too. It's "what is the appropriate role?" And there are a lot of...as you have certainly learned, as the city has learned in the course of trying to construct an independent body. That's not easily done. There are a lot of different models out there. I think, ultimately, the most effective strategies that I have seen employed, the most effective bodies of police review commissions or bodies, have been those that recognize that they've got to maintain, they absolutely have to maintain, their sense of...their independence, that they truly are a body that stands apart from the police department staff and the role that staff have. By the same token, they're aware of the difficulties, the challenges of policing and they're also looking at the realities of service delivery back to a

community, and whether those things are being done in a manner that's consistent and harmonious with community expectations. It is not an easy task. I don't envy you. Let me tell you that very candidly. I do not envy you sitting in this role because it's almost inevitably a no-win situation. It's analogous to what I always felt I encountered out there as a police officer in the field. Virtually any of the contacts that you have out there in the field, you know that somebody's gonna walk away unhappy with what you're doing. It's either somebody's who's been victimized or somebody you're arresting or whatever else the case might be. Everybody's not always gonna be happy, but you have a job to do. You do it as professionally as you possibly can. Again, I wish I could tell you that there's a pure model, a pure approach, that there's a particular strategy that works. All I would encourage you to do is just be mindful of the need to be both independent and keep focused on what the mission and the objectives are.

COMMISSIONER GARCIA – Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BREWER – I have one question, if I may. If this commission comes up with a policy recommendation or something of that nature and that becomes in conflict with what you feel your job is, does that mean that right there you have the authority to overrule that?

MR. BRANN – Well, ultimately, no, I won't say that I have the authority to overrule that. I'll say that the State Attorney General would have the authority if it was in clear conflict. But I have a very difficult time envisioning a scenario under which we would find ourselves at odds on that front. I think we're all working towards the same objective and, just as I'm currently doing with the Police Department staff, there...what I've found in the course of dealing with the policy issues that we've been grappling with thus far, the staff, the Chief and his staff, have been very, very responsive and they're truly looking for ways to make all of this work. I haven't seen any significant disagreement. I've seen that the outcomes, the objectives, are clearly the same. The issue is, ultimately, how do we get there, and we've certainly already had some negotiations, some discussions, ultimate reaching consensus about how something would best be done. I view myself in that sense as a resource to you as well. Hopefully, I may be able to provide a perspective or a, well, a point of view that might be helpful to you with some of your considerations too. And, if I can, please don't hesitate to call upon me as long as that's seen to be appropriate by you and by the Attorney General's office and the Police Chief.

VICE-CHAIR BREWER – Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Any others? Okay, thank you.

COMMISSIONER GOLDWARE – This is kind of a follow-up. I just want to make a comment that Commissioner Garcia reminded me of with Mr. Brann's follow-up. This goes back to Ms. Shelton's comment at the very beginning regarding independent investigation. I'm not speaking for the Commission. I'm just speaking as one commissioner, my personal opinion. I am very confident that this commission will act in an independent basis...on an independent basis and will be free-thinking as it relates to the benefit of the community and I don't think that we'll be bound by a feeling that we are at odds with or in conjunction with any particular group or organization. I am aware, and am sensitive to the comment that you made regarding the Department and most particular, the RPOA, and in most particular some of the comments that have been made by President Theuer, Jay Theuer, as the RPOA president. And again, speaking personally, I am not at all enamored with the comment that he has made. I am not comfortable with the fact that he understands why we are here. I recognize that he has a duty to his membership, but I will tell you candidly, I resent some of the comments that he's made, and in fairness to the Department, because I think that all of us here in the city are very supportive of our police department in general. The process that we're trying to follow is so that the community and the Police Department are even stronger together than they've been in the past, and I would hope that the RPOA, or at least it's leadership, and it may be just one person, I don't know, as it relates to the comments, that the leadership should take a little bit more time and try to be a little bit more sensitive to some of the things that they're saying about this commission, especially since most of them have not taken the time to come to any of the meetings. So I appreciate your comment. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – And again I'll have to say that I think all of us here will echo your comments and...go ahead.

COMMISSIONER EGSON – I'm sorry Mr. Brann that I didn't come in when you...at the...on the start of your comments. I'm challenged right now. What I would like to say is that for anything to work, there has to be patience, there has to be a time for people to see if it's going to work before we start making negative comments about it. And I think the challenge that the commissioners have is that we are under a microscope and our actions, or reactions, or whatever, are being analyzed to a real high degree. And I think when people begin to trust us and trust the Attorney General and to trust all of those who are in the...because we're...right now we're in the process of change and change is not accepted because of their own perceptions and so hopefully, in the next year, or sometimes even longer, the credibility will go even higher as we do our job the best we can and I pray for you and you pray for us.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Again I thank Commissioner Goldware and Commissioner Egson for their comments. Okay, now we'll move forward. Lt. Pete Esquivel from the Riverside Police Department will discuss the Eastside gang situation. Come on up, Pete.

LT. ESQUIVEL – Good evening to everybody. It's a pleasure to be here to address you and give you a report on our activity on the Eastside. As you're well aware, over the last several years we've had an ongoing gang warfare that has really encompassed the entire city. I think the Eastside and probably Casa Blanca and Arlanza have been some of the areas where we've experienced the greatest number of problems. And something real significant occurred several years ago on the Eastside, where the gang warfare spilled out beyond that which encompassed gang members and out into the community and became a little more of a race war, and this was amongst Hispanic gang members and Afro-American gang members. And over the years, as a result of some of the violence, homicides and major assaults that have occurred there, the community involvement has been somewhat gauged on merit with the type of activity that was occurring. Every now and then, when it's gang member versus gang member, there may be a lack in concern, or general concern amongst the community in general. And every now and then it'll spill out, it'll touch somebody that is either a family member, or it affects somebody, or it'll be a particular type of incident that will almost...that will mobilize the community to motivate them to come together and talk about it and do these...and have meetings and discuss what can be done to resolve these issues. And these things tend to be cyclic. The motivations run high. Then as the trouble goes away, they run low again, and as of recent...I'm sad to report, but also happy to give you a follow-up report, and the bad part of it was that several months ago we started seeing an increase in the violence that was going on in the Eastside amongst Afro-American gang members and Hispanic gang members. And, as had always been the case, it did spill out into the community. We had several incidents that incited the community. One in particular, where at Lincoln Park, an opposing gang shot at gang members that were in the park and there were many children that were present that were practicing soccer, having some kind of soccer function of some type, and this caused some concern in the community that certainly was absolutely merited. And as a result of that, there were some meetings that...where the Police Department was called to attend. Chief Leach, myself, and several others attended these meetings and...

So we became aware that there was a concern out in the community once again. Prior to that occurring, we had already realized that the escalation was under way and had prepared our plans to...to engage this activity again, and this time we decided to do it a little bit differently. And as this was occurring, we also had another incident where there was a homicide on University and this occurred at University and Ottawa where Hispanic gang members killed a black adult male that was non-gang involved. And here again, that raised concerns that this viciousness could extend out beyond the gang environment and also be motivated by hate and by race. And as a result of that, the police agency got together and we decided, 'Well, what are we gonna do about it this time, you know? We can't do it alone. We need to reach out to the community. We need to mobilize the community, and whenever we go in to take action and do what we do – and that is arrest people, take 'em to jail, do enforcement action, also prevention action – after we go away, there's nothing in place really that keeps the problem down.' Chief Leach facilitated by allowing us to work together intra-divisionally and so not only Special Investigations, but Field Operations and all of the areas of the Police Department came together to put together a task force to engage in a suppression program on the Eastside. So part of the plan was to engage in a suppression activity. The other part was to mobilize the community so that we would have an intervention and also prevention approach and also bring together the resources that were available.

After a month of putting this program together, we've had in excess of 40 arrests. We targeted specific gangs, specific gang members that we were able to identify that had been contributing to the violence on the Eastside. And in conjunction with that we also had members of several different organizations that are either community-related, CBO's, and or governmental agencies that work on the Eastside and we assessed what resources were available and brought it all together and had some discussions as to how we could better serve that community. At the same time we extended our hand out to the community and said, 'Help us. Help us help you.' We realize as a police agency that our confidence level amongst the community has eroded and I think that this body is here as a result of that. And our credibility is not the best out in the community regardless of where our heart is or what our efforts are, and since we have to acknowledge that, we have to find new ways and innovative ways of reaching everybody to try to help out and to try to do the job that we need to. We've been extremely successful. I mentioned the stats. We've taken a lot, a lot of guns off the streets. We took one Uzi and several high-powered handguns, all sorts of different types of weapons and have been extremely aggressive on our police work. Probably one of the proudest things that I have to report to you is that, in spite of this aggressive police work that we conducted in this last month on the Eastside, we have had very little, if any, complaints whatsoever. I mean none. And I don't think that you'll see any that'll come forward and I think that's something that shows the effort that the Police Department is now doing and we have to relearn and reevaluate the way that we do business and the way that we deliver police service and I think that we're making strong headway. And that it really significant and we've been successful. The neighborhoods are once again more peaceful than they were a month ago, and even several months ago. We're not naïve enough to think that it'll stay that way and that it will remain. No, it won't. Once we leave, once we back off from our position of enforcement, what'll happen is that slowly, but surely, the problems will rise again. And what we're looking at this time is to leave back some kind of maintenance effort involving the community, also the agencies that are available to provide services to that area. We have a program called 'Project Bridge,' which I think probably most of you are aware of and...a very special program, very unique...one of two in the nation right now. The other one's in Mesa, Arizona, and it's a model program that has been funded by the federal government that brings a new style of looking at the problem and issue of gang violence. And what it does, it puts together the team effort of prevention, intervention, and suppression and we have to realize that as a...that in law enforcement we can't do it alone. We can't...and I think that that's what community-oriented policing actually does. However, we have to even carry it further than that and that is that we have to partner up with all the various agencies that provide resources and it's also more cost-effective to bring the resources from various agencies to attack the same problem, and that's what we're in the process of doing right now.

We're gonna move forward. We're not gonna take a soft stance on violence and the main issue that we did this time as well is that we're also appealing to the public for support. And that is that when we go in and we start taking aggressive police action, we realize that complaints might be generated, that our enforcement effort is going to be scrutinized very closely and that's okay. That's okay. And if we make mistakes, we're going to admit our mistakes and we're gonna be willing to stand up and say, 'Okay. We'll correct it and see if we can take better action.'

But in any case, that's been the enforcement effort that we've had. I think that you've read some of the stories that have been in the newspaper. They've been fairly accurate and we've been also successful in getting some positive attention to the effort that we've been putting over there. And it's all been on the basis of a lot of teamwork and a lot of effort and trying to deliver up peace and aggressive police action in concert with the community that we serve. And I'd be happy to answer any questions that you may have...

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Go ahead, Mike.

COMMISSIONER GARDNER – Lieutenant, not so much a question as a comment. I periodically drive University Avenue and I've noticed that things just look and, mostly, feel better now than they did a month ago. So I do think that you're having a positive affect, and I congratulate you on that. I'm really glad to hear that the action is not generating a lot of complaints. That kind of thing could easily and if it's not, I think it is probably an indication that the people in the street, the officers on the street, are comporting themselves in a professional manner and treating people with the dignity that they deserve, even the bad guys. And that's... It sometimes can be difficult to do, but it's important, and I think that's part of what is

gonna help turn attitudes around is, you know, 'Even if, even if you arrest me, if you treat me decently, I will be less upset.' And I think that is probably is beginning to happen and I congratulate on it.

LT. ESQUIVEL – Thank you very much and I appreciate you taking notice of that as well.

COMMISSIONER EGSON – I think also what is making it a lot easier for you on University and on the Eastside, is that the people are ready for their neighborhoods to returned to a state of safety and getting out and walking and...I think that's a climate throughout the country. People are...they want their neighborhoods back and I think it's gonna work. It's gonna come up again, but I think it's gonna work.

LT. ESQUIVEL – Well, we're very much looking forward to it.

COMMISSIONER EGSON – Yeah, I'm still gonna have you over...come talk to my kids. Not to my house, now...

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Pete, I have a question.

LT. ESQUIVEL – Yes, sir...

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – In the mid-80's, when the Crips and Bloods started coming out from L.A. and they were fighting each other for the control of drugs and also fighting the Hispanic gangs, what's happened to the Crips and Bloods, the battles between them now, since this is a brown / black situation?

LT. ESQUIVEL – They're alive and well and these issues are still very strong in many, many cities. The dynamics of what drives the different gangs really motivate them to do what they consider to be a higher priority. The black gangs, the high priority's really the dealing of drugs. It's a business. And in Riverside, we have a lot of influx of the L.A. gangs that come in and, really, a lot of the activity that you see on University, many of the arrests that we make, they're related to the sales of drugs involving black arrestees are...many from out of town. They're from L.A. They're coming in to transact business. This is an area that's been known that there's a good market out there. There's a desire. There's a demand. And, of course, they come in and provide the supply. And those issues are still very prevalent. In our city, the dynamics are a little bit different. I think that in the surrounding areas, in Moreno Valley, Rubidoux, Perris, all these surrounding areas, San Bernardino, you'll see that those dynamics are still there. I can't offer a specific or succinct answer as to why we don't experience that type of trouble, but it may be because of the type of neighborhoods that we have and the type of policing that we do.

The Hispanic gangs, they're more territorial. They're more turf oriented. They're protecting their areas. They are also engaging in crime and they're also engaging in the sales of narcotics, but they're a little different. They're, for the most part, run out of the prison system by organizations. The black gangs – that's not necessarily true. They're run out of a marketing scheme and as a business enterprise. And so the different motivations, and I think that these race wars that you see amongst the gang members, they also spill out into other cities. It's not just here in Riverside. You'll see that in L.A. You'll see it across the nation. And for some reason, the intricacies and the dynamics of the socio-economic issues that are going on in the communities and in the barrios, these things just surface. I think that's a social ill that we need to look at and that's why we as a police agency, we don't even make the effort in trying to do it alone anymore. We need to reach out. We need to help. And it takes the community to get involved to help us do what we do and I think that's what we're seeing out there, that we need to get the support of the citizens that live in those areas that will no longer tolerate the crime in their neighborhoods that are willing to step up and report it and not be afraid of some kind of aggressive action. And mostly not to be afraid of the police, that the police are there to help, you know, and that the police are a lesser danger than the gang members are, and I'm not so sure that in many places that's the feeling. You know, a lot of places, if you dial 911, they want the police to arrive there, but they want them to leave immediately after, you know, and that's not conducive to keeping the neighborhoods free of crime.

But I think, that's, in general, what's going on in the gang environment.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – So in spite of the race war, the Crips and Bloods have not joined up together.

LT. ESQUIVEL – In some cities they do.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – I'm talking about in Riverside.

LT. ESQUIVEL – In some cities they put those issue aside and business and ? is more important than... With the black gangs, business is everything. And they're willing sometimes to put issues aside, put everything aside, to earn that mighty dollar.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Okay. Anybody else?

COMMISSIONER GARCIA – Ah, yes. Lt. Esquivel, I'm glad to see that you do have the community's support and you do have your CBO's working with you. I hope to see that in the future, if there are any other problems in...throughout the city, that all your communities work with you also on...such good work on making those problems go away.

LT. ESQUIVEL – Thank you for your support. I really appreciate that. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER EGSON – Lieutenant...Lt. Esquivel...

LT. ESQUIVEL – Yes, ma'am...

COMMISSIONER EGSON – is there a way for the citizens to know, other than seeing the police officers arrive at a location where there is gang activity, that you are on the job? Couldn't it be a, kind of like a...a community information blitz, or say fliers passed out to the homes and let them know that this is the type of activity that's...that is now happening and it...and that it will be beefed up as it goes along and encourage them to feel free to call or...

LT. ESQUIVEL – We're working on that. I think that what we need to do, and what we need to do better than what we've done in the past, is to communicate a little better with the community and do education programs, facilitate meetings where we can...where we can disseminate information on how to report, how to maintain your anonymity, how the police work, and if and when police officers make mistakes – and we will make mistakes, you know – to know it in advance and not hold it against the entire agency and pinpoint that and...and one of the things that we've done this time, for instance, is Chief Leach gave instructions for us to get out into the community to show that we're there. We put out our mobile police station. We have a motor home, or a mobile home, that some of you have seen, and we put it out. We placed it in parks and strategic places in the community to provide information to disseminate printed materials and also to be there, available for people to call. The other thing we also moved forward on is advertising our WE TIP lines, those, the gang hotline, and all the various formats that are available for people to call in so that they're not pinpointed as being ones that called. But it's gonna be a process that...that's gonna take a little bit of time and a little bit of patience and a lot of hard work by all of us.

COMMISSIONER EGSON – I think that, you know, if that happens and the gang members see that, the message goes out that there'll be low tolerance for their presence in these neighborhoods and... I was just thinking about that. Thank you.

LT. ESQUIVEL – Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Okay, Gloria?

COMMISSIONER HUERTA – Let me just ask one question.

LT. ESQUIVEL – Yes, ma'am...

COMMISSIONER HUERTA – Is there anything that we could do as commissioners, because we have our own sphere of things we do – our churches, our synagogues, our civic organizations, health care programs that we're involved in – is there anything that we could do to help, number one, publicize that there's preventive things out there that can be done, educational things that can be done and, this is a question for Don – I've been on vacation, so I haven't looked at our website – but could we do a link to our website to something like this that, you know, educationally, gang prevention, intervention...

EXEC. DIR. WILLIAMS – I say qualified yes, and I say qualified because I don't know that much about it, but yes, I think...I've seen it done other places. I'm sure we can do the same thing. If they've got something, we'll be glad to do whatever it takes to make a link up between us and the PD so they can get that information.

LT. ESQUIVEL – I think that, if you're asking my opinion, absolutely yes. I think that being supportive of the Police Department, as Mr. Goldware says, you know, that if and when we get caught in a situation where it's a crises of some type or some situation where it's misunderstood by the public, I think that this body...the people need to feel confidence that the Police Department is...has some kind of oversight of some type, but it has to be a cohesive effort, you know, that they...the people have to know that we're working together, that you do support the Police Department, but in the same hand, if something goes awry and action needs to be taken, and we either need to change the way we do business or take action on something that we did inappropriately, that that's gonna happen as well. And I think the biggest issue is that community wide, we, as a police agency, we have to regain the confidence that we've lost and I think that this is...this body is the one that has to facilitate that and I think by...by publicity, by...by making public statements and supportive statements, not...that has to go in both directions, but... I think that's...that's what it's gonna take.

COMMISSIONER HUERTA – Would it be beneficial if...if some of us were involved when you did some of these activities? I mean, if you were going out to do a gang intervention, education, PTA program, Mayor's Night Out, something, would it be beneficial for members of the Commission who are interested – not all of us, because some of us may not be – but to be involved in helping to plan and being present.

LT. ESQUIVEL – I think that it would not only show support, but it also would elevate your expertise in being able to know what we do, how we work, and also be able to know first-hand the information that was either disseminated or what action is being taken, and I think that Mr. Williams could surely facilitate that and I would encourage you and I would welcome you to participate. And I think that that would make your jobs a lot easier, you know, when you review what it is that we do and how we're doing it.

COMMISSIONER EGSON – Would it be helpful for us to know the gangs that are in our city?

LT. ESQUIVEL – Well...you know, one of the things that we do as a tactic, is we try not to publicize gang names, particular gangs and I think that you'll notice that there's been a complete absence of that and, as a matter of fact, we've had great success in trying not to publicize that, because all we do when we do that is just glorify and many individuals just live for that. So what we do is...

COMMISSIONER EGSON – I didn't mean press-wise or, you know, passing out fliers. I meant for our own edification, you know...

LT. ESQUIVEL – I'll tell you what I would like to do is, if you have the time and effort and Mr. Williams would like to coordinate this, I would like to put a gang presentation...a real detailed one, one that would give you a real analysis of what we have in Riverside, what's alive and well. And I think that you'll be very surprised, you'll be very surprised.

COMMISSIONER EGSON – That's what I...that's what I was alluding to.

LT. ESQUIVEL – Some of the areas that you don't hear about that are alive and well are your supremacy groups, you know, white supremacy, Nazi low-riders, and such like that, and they're alive and well in our city and these are some of the areas that get very little publicity and I think you'd be very surprised and I

think that it would be very enlightening. So I would love to volunteer to make that happen and coordinate that.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Would you arrange for that, Don?

EXEC. DIR. WILLIAMS – You bet. We'll work on it and I'll...yeah, I can get with Pete and we can work something out, everybody can get involved and... We'll make it happen.

LT. ESQUIVEL – Okay. Thank you very much. Have a good evening.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – One more...

LT. ESQUIVEL – Oh...sorry... Mr. Brewer, I wouldn't leave you behind...

VICE-CHAIR BREWER – I'm always left behind... Just a statement. I think the key factor is to get the citizens to a position where they are not so intimidated by the gangs that they're afraid to come to the police, cooperate with the police. Once we can get the faith back into the Police Department that they know that they'll be protected and taken care of, that's gonna solve a great deal of your problems.

LT. ESQUIVEL – That's a big issue, yes. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Thank you, Pete. Thank you very much.

LT. ESQUIVEL – Good evening. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Okay, we'll move on to Item 7 on the agenda, the corrected agenda, discuss and vote on the following recommendations to Riverside Police Department Policies and Procedures. The Commission recommends that the RPD develop a policy that requires officers to give receipts when they take property from anyone. The policy should be broad enough to cover all property seizure circumstances. Any discussion on this? There's no discussion? Gloria?

COMMISSIONER HUERTA – I move we accept the policy as we recommended.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Question on the motion? All those in favor say aye.

Unanimous "aye."

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Opposed, same sign. Carried. Okay, at this time...

EXEC. DIR. WILLIAMS – Mr. Commissioner?

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Yes...

EXEC. DIR. WILLIAMS – One word... We've invited a number of prospective... As you know, tomorrow the Council will pick the replacement for Jim Redsecker, and there are a number of people in the audience who are prospective, or candidates for that prospective spot. I'd just like to have them sort of raise their hands, if you could, sort of be known there. If you want to speak...meet with them and just chit-chat with them, you know, when we break to go into closed session... Just like to welcome them to this...to our meeting tonight. This is what it's all about.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – How about if they come up and introduce themselves, the ones that are here, so we know who they are?

EXEC. DIR. WILLIAMS – Yeah. Would you all want to come up and introduce yourselves?

CANDIDATE – I'm John Ernsberger. Of course, Nick knows me. The rest of you probably don't. I was on

the Planning Commission for nine years, and the Environmental Protection Commission about eight years before that. I've been involved with the City for quite a while.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Thank you, sir. Any others?

NEXT CANDIDATE – My voice doesn't carry very far, so I'll come up here. I'm Deborah Wong from UC Riverside and the Riverside Coalition for Police Accountability. I remain keenly interested in serving on this commission and have been following your activities with great interest since your inception some months ago. I think many of us follow your activities with considerable hope, and I would dearly love to be part of that process of moving forward with your work. So, we'll see what happens tomorrow, eh?

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Unfortunately, we don't make the choice. We don't have any choice in the matter. Anyone else?

NEXT CANDIDATE – My name's Robert Norton. I'm a local business person and I've had an interest in this for a while myself.

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Thank you. Any others?

NEXT CANDIDATE – I'm William Caloia. I served six years on the Parking, Traffic and Streets Commission. Before that I served three years ? as chairman of the Eastside Neighborhood Advisory Committee and (balance of statement unintelligible).

CHAIRPERSON HOWE – Thank you. Anyone else? Okay. At this time, we adjourn this part of the meeting and we move to closed session to deal with actual police cases. Five minutes...

Closed Session – Case Reviews

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, the Commissioners adjourned to Closed Session at 7 p.m. to review the following case(s) involving PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL MATTERS:

<u>CPRC CASE NO.</u>	<u>IA CASE NO.</u>
01-028	PC-01-058-213
01-063	PC-01-126-180
01-074	PC-01-140-039
01-076	PC-01-142-157
01-079	PC-01-150-289
01-081	PC-01-152-227

The Commission adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

PHOEBE SHERRON
Administrative Clerk